



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony presented to the Joint Committee on Judiciary

Chief Anthony Salvatore and Chief Matthew Reed for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents all municipal police departments in Connecticut as well as police departments at private and state universities.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association **SUPPORTS** H.B. 5548, AAC Domestic Violence.

Members of CPCA participated in and worked collaboratively with other members of the Speaker's Task Force on Domestic Violence. CPCA supports the recommendations of the Task Force and believes that continually reviewing and updating the statewide model policy will assist in guiding Connecticut's law enforcement agencies in their response to incidents of domestic violence and ultimately help to better protect victims of such violence.

Connecticut law enforcement recognizes that acts domestic violence are serious crimes and must be investigated and acted upon with due diligence and promptness. Offenders and victims must be separated and every effort must be made to protect the victim and other family members from further harm.

Connecticut law enforcement understands that crimes of domestic violence are different from other crimes in that victims are often hesitant to come forward. Children and other family members are often unable to protect themselves; feel intimidated or threatened and often unable to reach out and seek help.

It should be noted that the CPCA also supported **H.B. 5023**, AAC Arrest Powers of Local Police Officers and Motor Vehicle Inspectors. This proposed statutory amendment would give local police officers the authority to cross local jurisdictional boundaries and make a custodial arrest of an offender for a non-felony offense and further assist in protecting victims of domestic violence. Without the passage of HB 5023, domestic violence victims may be left in harm's way as police are unable to take a non-felony offender into custody but instead must retreat and obtain an arrest warrant.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports H.B. 5548, AAC Domestic Violence and supports the further protection of crime victims and the rapid apprehension of offenders.

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